

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Drawings

A new drawing sheet has been added having two drawing figures. These figures were mentioned in the text and add no new material, but are merely diagrammatic illustrations of information already provided in the specification.

Election of Species

The Examiner has required election among the inventions of Groups I and II. The Applicant elects Species II with traverse. The Applicant respectfully traverses this election as the various embodiments can be searched without undue burden by the Examiner. Under 37 CFR 1.141, the Applicant is allowed to claim more than one species in a single application, and MPEP § 803 directs that “[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” Since all of the species will be classified in the same area and require the same search, no serious burden to the Examiner should be caused by Examining all the species. However, for the purpose of expediting prosecution, the Applicant has made the above election with traverse.

Claims 11-16 and new claims 17-21 read on the second species.

Claim Objected To

Claim 10 has been amended to show proper dependency on claim 1.

Summary

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested. For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition to be passed to issue. If such is not the case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number given below in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Applicants have made a diligent and bona fide effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Robert N. Blackmon, Applicants' Attorney at 703-684-5633 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Dated: February 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Robert N. Blackmon
Reg. No. 39494
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Merek, Blackmon & Voorhees, LLC
673 S. Washington St.
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Tel. 703-684-5633
Fax. 703-684-5637
E-mail: RNB@BlackmonLaw.com